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Dewan's reply.—The High Court have been consulted and they do not think that any necessity has been made out for amending the Regulation. I would again mention, what I said at the last session of the Assembly, that the jenmies of Travancore are worse off and the kudiyans here are better off than their corresponding brethren in British Malabar and Cochin. His Highness' Government do not propose to worsen the position of the jenmies in the State.

17. *Bill to amend the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation, III of 1076.*

Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) said that he wished to say a few words touching the provision in the new Bill to amend the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation about cremation and burial grounds in towns. Under Section 4 of the Bill, no new burial ground or burning ground, whether public or private, could be opened or used unless a license had been granted by the Committee. The provision, if passed, would affect the Nair residents of the towns more than any other section of His Highness' subjects. It was a custom and a traditional usage with the Nairs to have their dead buried or cremated in their own gardens. The provision in question would therefore create a revolution in their religious sentiments. He however said that he did not oppose the provision as a whole but suggested the following amendments thereto, *viz.*,

(1) that gardens measuring 75 cents and above in area be exempted from the obligation of a license as required by the Section; and

(2) that prosecution for a contravention of the Section should be started only at the instance of an actually aggrieved neighbour.

Mr. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, Town Improvement Committee, Quilon) said that the contribution now made by Government for the upkeep of towns should be continued.

Mr. A. Parameswara Panikkar (Member, Town Improvement Committee, Alleppey) said that he was sorry to observe that the policy and principles of the new T. I. C. Bill showed a departure from those adopted by Government in previous years. Ever since the passing of Regulation II of 1069, Government had been introducing a sort of Municipal Government in the five towns. In the year 1080, an attempt was made at introducing Municipal Government on an electoral basis. A Bill was introduced into the Council in 1081, but it had to be withdrawn on the ground that it was unsuitable to local conditions. By

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SUBJECTS.

the new Bill now before the Council, it is proposed to withdraw the allotments to the Committees that were being annually sanctioned by Government and to make the Committees self-supporting. In other words, the principle underlying the Bill was that taxation is the basis of self-government. Though that could not be contradicted, he said that it would at the same time be conceded that taxation without representation was also not a sound principle to follow. The Member therefore requested that Government might see their way to grant to the people the privilege of electing members to the Committees.

Dewan's reply.—The Bill is now before the Select Committee to whom the views now expressed by the Members would be communicated. I recognise that the difficulties about cremation and burial grounds mentioned by Mr. Govinda Pillai deserve careful consideration. I also recognise that the contention of Mr. Parameswara Panikkar that, when people are taxed for local purposes, they should have a fair share in electing members to the Committees, is reasonable.

The Assembly adjourned at 4-30 P. M.

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